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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/19/2014
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNGA](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [SY](#) [LE](#) [UV](#)
SUBJ: BURKINA FASO - OPPOSING UNGA RESOLUTIONS WITH ANTI-ISRAEL BIAS
REF: STATE 118799

Classified by Charge d'Affaires Dennis Hankins for reasons 1.4 (b and d)

1.(C) Charge delivered REFTEL demarche November 19 to MFA Director for International Organizations Der Kogda. Charge thanked Burkina Faso for its decision to abstain on the November 5 Goldstone Report Resolution and noted that the Burkinabe voting history on Israel-related votes (including being - not present - for the 2008 63/95 vote on the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices) demonstrated they are prepared to reach an independent decision on key votes. Charge emphasized the U.S. and Quartet efforts on the Middle East Peace Process are active and are showing some progress it advancing a durable and equitable peace. Charge asked Kogda to consider their votes this year in the context of bolstering the peace process

2.(C) Kogda confirmed that Burkina Faso is watching the Israel resolutions closely. Noting Burkina Faso's participation in the Security Council, he said the Burkinabe were well aware of the seriousness of ongoing peacemaking efforts. While Burkina Faso had condemned the Israeli actions in Gaza, they also recognized that the actions of certain Palestinian factions had often provoked Israeli responses and were generally unhelpful in attaining peace. For that reason they had decided to abstain from the Goldstone Report resolution. Kogda indicated their votes will likely mirror last year's (i.e. being absent or abstaining on the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices... vote) but he shared the U.S. concern for the addition of references to the Goldstone Report in several of this year's resolutions suggesting that Burkina Faso is seeking to remove those references. Kogda said Burkina Faso will monitor the language in the resolutions until the end to see if that unhelpful language remains.

HANKINS